

White's Pond Study Committee

Minutes of February 28, 2011 Meeting

Committee members in attendance: Dick Downey, Ellen Duggan, Peter Reed, Jim Fulton, Jason Kreil, Paul Boothroyd, Eugene Redner, Herb Symes

Also in Attendance: Jerry Flood Supt. of D.P.W., Bob Chapell of Woodard & Curran

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dick Downey

Motion made by Ellen Duggan to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Kreil. Motion to accept the minutes of 2/14/11 passed unanimously

Jerry Flood provided a handout report of past water consumption usage for the committee's information. The statistics provided appear to show a decrease in water consumption.

Ellen Duggan informed the committee that she has made contact with the engineering department at UMass-Lowell. She is working towards developing this as a resource for the WPSC.

Eugene Redner reported that he has made some contact with a group in California that may also be a resource for the WPSC. Eugene will e-mail to each committee member a copy of the Six Technologies.

-The next segment of the meeting was a discussion with Jerry Flood of the D.P.W., Bob Chapell of Woodard & Curran and the WPSC.

Herb Symes asked Jerry Flood if we have a figure as to how much it costs to pump a gallon of water? Jerry replied that he will continue to compile that information and get it to the committee. Jerry does not have the cost per source(well site). Currently the cost is not obtained in that manner. The cost is obtained in an aggregate manner, arriving at an overall average cost.

Bob Chapell of Woodard & Curran distributed the Assessment of Water Resources Project Milestones chart for discussion. This chart shows the tasks that Woodard & Curran will be working on and the projected completion dates for each task.

Dick Downey conveyed that he would like a Gant Chart so that we can better measure progress. He would like more detail with regard to sub tasks. We need more break down.

Bob Chapell replied that Woodard & Curran can do that for the committee.

Jerry Flood said that he has been in contact with Bob Chapell and that Bob has already agreed to attend more meetings than contracted for. In order to be fair to Bob, Jerry suggested that Bob could update progress to the committee by using e-mail. This way the committee could go over the progress updates and develop questions before meeting with Woodard & Curran, possibly cutting down the number of meetings for Woodard & Curran to attend.

Bob Chapell pointed out four meetings to take place with the committee and Woodard & Curran.

1. April 11th
2. May 9th
3. June 24th Draft Report
4. July 29th Final Report.

Jerry said he has been in contact with former DPW Supt. Tom Sheridan regarding finding maps of the exact layout of water lines across the government land.

Eugene Redner stated he would like to see the Draft Report prior to the June 24th meeting. Dick Downey said he would like two weeks to review the Draft report in order to better discuss the report with Woodard & Curran. Dick would like to submit our Final Report to the selectmen on August 22nd. In order to do so, he would like to meet with Woodard & Curran on August 15th to discuss the Final Report before presenting to the selectmen. Dick proposed the following revisions to the meeting dates with Woodard & Curran: April 11th, May 9th, July 11th and August 15th.

A motion was made by Herb Symes and seconded by Paul Boothroyd to adopt the aforementioned revised meeting dates. The committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

Bob Chapell stated that Woodard & Curran will provide progress updates to the committee every two weeks by e-mail.

Ellen Duggan asked how do we get public input into this? Dick said it was up to the committee to develop methods to get the public involved.

Ellen also asked for clarification as to Maynard's legal rights to White's Pond. She would like some clarification in this regard. Jerry suggested that the Town Counsel may play a role in this regard.

Ellen said the citizens need to know the risks of possibly losing White's Pond.

Review of Milestone Report with Bob Chapell of Woodard & Curran

TASK #1 - Regarding routing of the exact location of the transmission line, he has contacted U.S. Fish & Wildlife. He is 10% to 15% into task 1. He will have a map showing the exact routing and options available.

Paul asked about easements across the government land. Were there any documents?

Bob replied we do have some easements showing on the Stow assessor's maps. He will look at maps and walk the route.

- ACTION ITEM – Paul Boothroyd will go to the registry of deeds to try and determine any existing recorded easements across the government land.

TASK #2 – Bob stated that there is sufficient space to site a surface water treatment plant at White's Pond. This land is available within the property as well as near the existing pump house at White's Pond.

Dick asked about developing an optimum cost regarding locating the treatment plant in Maynard versus locating the treatment plant at White's Pond.

Bob replied that Woodard & Curran does not have the money or scope to do that. There are other issues than money to look at in this regard. Woodard & Curran will look at the plant at both sites and the various ramifications of each site. He said you would need 4-5 acres of land for the treatment plant and various other equipment for the treatment plant.

TASK #3 - Bob stated that the existing pump house at White's Pond has to be re-located. It is easy enough to re-locate the pump house at White's Pond. He stated that Woodard & Curran are about 50% into task #3

TASK #4 – Bob Chapell stated that Woodard & Curran has not yet had the opportunity to delve into tasks #4 through # 14.

TASK #5- Ellen asked why Old Marlboro Road wells and well #4 were included here. Jerry responded that it is because we want to look at all our resources. We don't want to put all our eggs in one basket. We want to look at all our options.

Paul asked about an old study regarding development of some wells located in Stow.

* ACTION ITEM – Jerry Flood will review old reports regarding Stow exploratory wells and get this information to the committee.

- ACTION ITEM – Jerry Flood to contact FEMA regarding Puffer Pond Well.

TASK #6 – Bob Chapell state that Woodard & Curran need to wait for the ground to thaw in order to drill some test wells at White's Pond.

Dick asked what if we find ground water contamination? Is surface water better? Could Woodard & Curran address this in its final report?

Bob replied that this can be done.

Dick addressed the e-mail that he sent to committee members today. Specifically, ATTACHMENT #1 regarding all of the towns current water sources. Dick asked the committee members if they would like to see any items or data added to this attachment?

Jim Fulton said he would like to see costs for each separate well.

Jerry replied that he can get some information but it is exceedingly difficult. We can make some reasonable assumptions.

Ellen asked, what about water quality ?

Jerry replied we have addressed water quality issues and do not anticipate quality issues ahead.

Peter Reed asked how often do we backwash?

Jerry replied we backwash once a week but if water color goes up we have to backwash more frequently. Monday thru Friday we don't run Rockland wells. We use Rockland wells on the weekend. Jerry said he can get some information as to how much water goes into the system versus how much water does not go into the system due to backwashing.

The Committee is inviting Tom Sheridan and Walter Sokolowski both former DPW Superintendents, to our next meeting on Monday March 7th. Dick extended an invitation to Bob Chapell to attend this meeting at his pleasure.

The committee discussed methods to use in order encourage citizen participation and input.

The web site will include more information about our work.

- ACTION ITEM – Ellen Duggan to approach WAVM for assistance in getting information out to the community.
 - ACTION ITEM – Dick Downey to approach the Beacon Villager about a possible article or interview.
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Dick suggested the committee visit White's Pond and all our wells. Jerry suggested waiting for better weather.

Committee then discussed Maynard's legal rights pertaining to White's Pond.

Dick suggested hiring an attorney.

Jerry Flood suggested going to Town Manger Mike Sullivan regarding rights and hiring counsel.

- ACTION ITEM – Dick Downey will talk to Mike Sullivan regarding these topics.

Ellen Duggan asked if we could get a copy of the legislative act granting White's Pond to Maynard?

- ACTION ITEM – Jerry Flood will get a copy for the committee.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The committee discussed the frequency of meetings. The consensus of the committee is to meet every two weeks.

The next WPSC meeting will be Monday March 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building in the Gianotis Room 201

The following future meeting dates were established:

March 21 – April 4 – April 11 – April 25 – May 9

Jason Kreil made a motion, seconded by Peter Reed to adjourn the meeting.
Motion to adjourn passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.